

# 'Chaos' seen at state Democratic caucuses

What used to take voters in the Michigan Democratic primary less than a minute will take state Democratic Party members most of Saturday to complete.

The task is casting a preference vote for a Democratic Party candidate for president to determine how many of the state's 141 delegates each candidate will receive.

"Chaos and confusion" are predicted by one veteran Democrat.

Voting will be completed in nearly 90 congressional district and county caucuses throughout the state Saturday.

Only those who signed Democratic Party membership cards by Feb. 26 or are precinct delegates will be eligible to vote in the caucuses. More than 41,000 statewide are eligible.

UNLESS YOU'VE been asleep since last fall, you know the two major candidates — President Jimmy Carter and U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts.

The caucuses will begin at 11 a.m. and may last into the early evening.

District caucuses covering southern Oakland and western Wayne counties will meet at the following locations:

• The 17th, including the Farmington area, Southfield and Redford Township — Mercy College Conference Center, 8200 W. Outer Drive at Southfield, Detroit.

• The 18th, including Troy — Retail Store Employees hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights.

• The 19th, including the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, West Bloomfield and western Rochester — Seaholm High School Auditorium, Cranbrook and Lincoln, Birmingham.



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— Second District Democratic Chairman Orville Tungate (left).

complex — and lengthy — system for dividing the 141 delegates.

There's no "winner take all" rule unless a candidate receives at least 90 percent of a district vote. If a candi-

any delegates.

There's a 40 percent quorum required for the caucuses, meaning caucus voters must remain at the polling place until the delegates are elected.

ONE CRITIC of the caucus system, Aldo Vagnozzi, of Farmington Hills, predicted, "Chaos and confusion are going to win."

Vagnozzi, a 17th District coordinator for the Kennedy campaign, expects the Massachusetts senator to do well in

Oakland County, but added: "I don't think you're going to see any swings one way or the other across the state."

Second District Democratic Chairman Orville Tungate, of Plymouth Township, predicted the vote in the Wayne County portion of the second will be even.

"I've got a feeling it's right down the middle at this point," said Tungate, a Carter supporter.

"I think Carter will take the State of Michigan. By how many delegates? I'm not sure."

• The 12th, including the eastern Rochester and Avon Township — Chippewa Valley High School West, 18300 Nineteen Mile Road, Mt. Clemens.

IN ALL districts except the 19th, five delegates and three alternate delegates will be elected Saturday.

The 19th will elect four regular delegates and two alternates.

The delegate selection will follow the caucus vote.

The Michigan Democratic Party opted for a caucus system this year over the former open presidential primary to prevent crossover voters from influencing the delegate vote apportionment.

But with only "declared Democrats" voting in the caucuses comes a more

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